Claims:

1. A tool holder (4) for elongated knitting tools (2),

having a transport rail (5, 5'), which has slots (16, 16', 17, 17'), disposed transversely to the longitudinal direction (L) of the transport rail (5, 5'), for receiving the knitting tools (2), wherein the slots (16, 16', 17, 17') have a width that is equivalent to the thickness of the knitting tool (2) to be received, such that the knitting tool (2) is retained by frictional engagement in the slot (16, 16', 17, 17').

2. The tool holder of claim 1, characterized in that the transport rail (5, 5') has two clamping legs (9, 9', 11, 11'), in order to hold together at least two parts (26, 31), which belong together, of the knitting tool (2).

3. The tool holder of claim 1, characterized in that the transport rail (5, 5') has a striplike back portion (6, 6'), from each of whose edges (7, 8) a respective clamping leg (9, 9', 11, 11') protrudes upward.

4. The tool holder of claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the clamping legs (9, 9', 11, 11') are disposed parallel to and spaced apart from one another.

5. The tool holder of claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the clamping legs (9, 9', 11, 11') are retained resiliently toward and away from one another.

6. The tool holder of claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the slots (16, 16', 17, 17') are embodied in the clamping legs (9, 9', 11, 11').

7. The tool holder of claim 6, characterized in that the slots (16, 16', 17, 17'), beginning at a closure edge (12, 14) of the clamping leg (9, 9, 11, 11'), extend toward the back portion (6, 6') of the transport rail (5, 5'), and the slots (16, 16', 17, 17') end at a distance from the back portion (6, 6').

8. The tool holder of claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the clamping legs (9, 9', 11, 11') has a portion that diverges away from the other clamping leg (9, 9', 11, 11').

9. The tool holder of claim 8, characterized in that the portion defines an obtuse angle with the remaining clamping leg (9, 11).

10. The tool holder of claims 6 and 8, characterized in that the slots (16, 17) end in the diverging portion.

11. The tool holder of claim 1, characterized in that the transport rail (5) is embodied in one piece.

12. The tool holder of claim 1, characterized in that the transport rail (5) is a plastic profile.

13. The tool holder of claim 12, characterized in that the plastic profile has a uniform wall thickness.

14. The tool holder of claim 1, characterized in that the transport rail (5) is embodied flexibly.

15. A tool holder (4) for elongated knitting tools (2),

having a transport rail (5, 5'), which has slots (16, 16', 17, 17'), disposed transversely to the

longitudinal direction (L) of the transport rail (5, 5'), for receiving the knitting tools (2), and

having a closure part (40), which fits over the transport rail (5, 5').

16. The tool holder of claim 15, characterized in that the transport rail (5, 5') has two clamping legs (9, 9', 11, 11'), which are resilient and are embodied of a thin-walled material, in order to hold together at least two parts (26, 31), which belong together, of the knitting tool (2); and that the closure part (40) has two clamping legs (46, 47) with end portions (50, 51) that are adapted to the end portions (52, 52) of the clamping legs (9, 9', 11, 11') and form an abutment for them.

17. The tool holder of claim 16, characterized in that the end portions (52, 53) of the clamping legs (9, 9', 11, 11') of the transport rail (5, 5') have an outer spacing (A) from one another; and that the end portions (50, 51) of the clamping legs (46, 47) of the closure part (40) have an inner spacing (B) from one another; and that the inner spacing (B) of the clamping legs (46, 47) of the closure part (40) is less than the outer spacing (A) of the clamping legs (9, 9', 11, 11') of the transport rail (5, 5').

18. The tool holder of claims 1 and 15, characterized in that the slots (16, 16') have a length that differs from the length of the slots (17, 17').

19. The tool holder of claims 1 and 15, characterized in that the slots define a pitch that matches the pitch of needle channels (34) of a knitting machine for which the knitting tools (2) are intended.

20. A shipping unit having a tool holder of one of

the foregoing claims, and having knitting tools (2) inserted into the slots (16, 16', 17, 17').

21. The shipping unit of claim 20, characterized in that the transport rail (5) and the knitting tools are provided with a casing (3).